

Guideline to WSDOT Bridge and Wildlife Documents

The purpose of this guideline is to categorize and describe the different types of bridge and wildlife guidance documents. Four different types of scenarios exist regarding WSDOT bridge and wildlife interactions. The following guidance documents address each of these scenarios below.

General
Bridge
Inspection
Activities

Interim Best Management Practices for Bridge Inspection and Compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

- This guidance was developed to provide interim guidance to the Bridge Inspection Office on how to comply with the MBTA.
- This guidance is specific to activities performed by bridge inspectors. *See communication process for coordination of bridge inspections.

General
Bridge
Maintenance
Activities

Regional Bridge Maintenance Environmental Compliance Guidance for Protected Terrestrial Species (Appendix to *Regional Highway Maintenance Environmental Compliance Guidance for Protected Terrestrial Species*)

- This guidance was developed to facilitate the planning and conducting of maintenance activities without violating various laws that protect terrestrial wildlife species, including MBTA, ESA, WAC 232-12-011, WAC 232-12-014, WAC 220-20-045, and WAC 232-12-276.
- This guidance is specific to the activities performed by maintenance personnel.
- In addition to general guidance for common maintenance activities on bridges, this guidance also provides recommendations for a few specific bridges due to the unique maintenance activities performed on them or due to their heavy use by wildlife.

Project-
specific; when
permits are
necessary

Project Specific Wildlife Management Plans

- Management plans are developed for large-scale projects on a project-by-project basis (such as the Lewis and Clark Bridge Painting Project).
- Management plans are developed as support documents that are submitted to USFWS and WDFW with a permit application. The purpose of the permit and enclosed plan is to request a nest intervention of a bird listed under MBTA if deterrent devices fail.
- Management plans are specific to a project occurring on a specific bridge and that will occur within a specific timeframe. The plan should include information on the proposed use of wildlife deterrent devices, monitoring protocols, and nest manipulation activities.
- Management plans are cooperatively developed by a WSDOT biologist, a representative from Bridge and Structures Office, and a representative from Maintenance (if a maintenance project). *See communication process for development of management plans.

Activity-
specific; when
no permits are
necessary

Site-specific Best Management Practice (BMP) Plan

- BMP plans are developed on a case-by-case basis to prevent violations from occurring and when compliance cannot be reached using the *Regional Highway Maintenance Environmental Compliance Guidance for Protected Terrestrial Species* or the *Interim Best Management Practices for Bridge Inspection and Compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act*.
- BMP plans are developed for a specific maintenance or inspection activity at a specific location during a specified timeframe.
- BMP plans are not approved by resource agencies because no violations are expected.
- BMP plans for maintenance activities are developed cooperatively by a WSDOT biologist, the RMEC, and a maintenance supervisor and a site-visit is required.
- BMP plans for inspection activities are developed cooperatively by a WSDOT biologist and a representative from the Bridge and Structures Office. *See communication process for the development of site-specific BMPs.

EXISTING GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS AND CURRENT STATUS

Interim Best Management Practices for Bridge Inspection and Compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Contact

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Statewide Guidance

Final *November 21, 2005*

Regional Bridge Maintenance Environmental Compliance Guidance for Protected Terrestrial Species (Appendix to *Regional Highway Maintenance Environmental Compliance Guidance for Protected Terrestrial Species*)

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Olympic Region Guidance

Final *March 6, 2006*

Southwest Region Guidance

In-development

Project Specific Wildlife Management Plans

2005-2008 Lewis and Clark Bridge Paint Project Management Plan for the Peregrine Falcon

Final *October 2005*

Also includes management guidelines
for swallows, Canada geese, and barn owls.

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2006-2007 Tacoma Narrows Bridge New Construction and Retrofit Management Plan for the Peregrine Falcon

Final *January 2006*

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Site-specific Best Management Practice (BMP) Plans

I-5 McAllister Creek Bridge Retrofit Site-specific BMP Plan

Draft *January 2006*

Provides BMPs to minimize impacts to swallows

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